

Agenda of the European Commission ***18 –22 November 2013***

**Background notes from the Spokespersons' service for journalists.
The European Commission reserves the right to make changes.**

Tuesday 19 November:

European Commission takes action to improve EU Small Claims Procedure

Wednesday 20 November:

The Commission adopts its monthly infringements package

Tuesday 19 November:

European Commission takes action to improve EU Small Claims Procedure

The news:

The Commission will present a revision of the 2007 Small Claims Procedure, a procedure to resolve small civil and commercial disputes in a hassle-free way.

Having listened to businesses and to consumers, the European Commission is taking action to make the procedure simpler, less costly and more relevant.

The background:

The European Small Claims Procedure ([Regulation \(EC\) No 861/2007](#)) aims to improve access to justice by simplifying cross-border small claims litigation in civil and commercial matters and reducing costs. It was especially conceived to help consumers enforce their rights and ensure access to justice in cross-border cases. The mechanism was adopted in 2007 and first entered into application on 1 January 2009.

"Small claims" are cases concerning sums of €2,000 or less, excluding interest, expenses and disbursements (at the time when the claim form is received by the competent court). The judgment is made in the country of residence of the consumer, or in the country of the defending company should the consumer so choose. It protects his/her procedural rights and becomes directly enforceable in the country of the losing party and in any other EU country. The procedure is conducted mostly in writing using pre-defined forms. Representation by a lawyer is not required.

The event:

IP and MEMO will be available on the day.

The sources:

- Justice Newsroom: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/index_en.htm
- Vice-President Reding's website: http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/reding

The contacts:

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Wednesday 20 November:

The Commission adopts its monthly infringements package

The news:

On Wednesday 20 November 2013, the European Commission will adopt its monthly infringements package. These decisions cover all Member States and most of EU policies and seek to enforce EU law across Europe in the interest of both citizens and businesses.

The background:

Article 258 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) gives the Commission the power to take legal action against a Member State that is not respecting its obligations under EU law.

There are three successive stages: Letter of formal notice, reasoned opinion and referral to the Court of Justice.

If, despite the ruling, a Member State still fails to act, the Commission may open a further infringement case under Article 260 of the TFEU. After only one written warning, the Commission may refer a Member State back to the Court and it can propose that the Court imposes financial penalties based on the duration and severity of the infringement and the size of the Member State.

The event:

A comprehensive Memo on all referrals and reasoned opinions, specific IPs on each referral and a Memo on the procedure will be available on the day on Rapid: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

The sources:

- For more information on infringements: http://ec.europa.eu/eu_law/infringements/infringements_en.htm
- On the general infringement procedure: [MEMO/12/12](#)

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On specific infringements, please contact the spokesperson in charge.